



**HR 134, HD 1, REQUESTING THE COLLEGE OF TROPICAL  
AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF PLANTING NON-GENETICALLY  
MODIFIED KALO IN THE REFLECTING POOL THAT SURROUNDS THE  
STATE CAPITOL BUILDING**

House Committee on Agriculture

April 17, 2009  
Room: 312

10:00 a.m.

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HR 134, HD 1, which requests the University of Hawai'i's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to conduct a study, in consultation with OHA, into the feasibility of planting kalo in the reflecting pools that surround the State Capitol building.

Kalo is one of the most sacred plants to Native Hawaiians, as Native Hawaiians believe the first kalo, Hāloanakalaukapalili, is our elder sibling, the child of the gods Wākea and Ho'ohōkūkalani. Moreover, Poi, which is made from the corm of kalo, serves as the staple food in the traditional Hawaiian diet. In 2007, the Hawai'i Legislature passed a bill naming kalo as the official plant of the state.

OHA believes that some sort of physical presence should be afforded to kalo at the State Capitol building because of the plant's cultural and historical importance to Hawai'i. Further, we embrace our kuleana of providing consultation to CTAHR for the college's feasibility study of planting kalo in the reflecting pools surrounding the State Capitol building.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to PASS HR 134, HD 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.